



Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grants

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

YHSI Goals

THE GOAL OF YHSI GRANTS IS TO INCREASE STATE AND LOCAL CAPACITY TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH AND CREATE PROJECTS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF YOUTH AT-RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Objectives

- ▶ Improve the capacity of youth in the community
- ▶ Establish partnerships
- ▶ Improve the centralized or coordinated assessment system also known as the Coordinated Entry Systems (CES)
- ▶ Improve data collection and use between systems that work with youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Assess, address, and improve equity in youth homeless response systems

Funding Available

Total Funding Available: \$50,000,000

- Per-project funding availability: \$200,000 to \$1 million

Funding Category	Maximum award
Planning and Partnerships	\$400,000
Data	\$300,000
Coordinated Entry	\$200,000
Racial & Gender Equity	\$200,000

Maximum amounts doubled for applications that cover geographic areas included in 2 or more CoCs or if the application geography covers the entire state.

Eligible Applicants

- ▶ State, county, and local governments
 - ▶ Tribal Governments
 - ▶ Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs)
 - ▶ Non-profit Organizations
-
- ▶ Funding and scoring incentives are offered for applications that cover a larger geographic area (e.g. state-wide projects)
 - ▶ Current and former YHDP recipients are eligible to receive YHSI grants

How is YHSI different from YHDP?

	YHDP	YHSI
Grant activities	Housing, Services, Planning, HMIS, Coordinated Entry	Planning and Partnerships, Data, Coordinated Entry, Racial & Gender Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding may not be used for housing or services
Grant length	24 months after 6-month planning period	30 months
Grant amount	\$600,000- \$15 million	\$200,000- \$2 million
Renewable funds	All funds, except planning and construction funds, are eligible for renewal under future CoC competitions	Nonrenewable
Eligible Applicants (NOFO)	CoC Collaborative Applicants	Not limited to Collaborative Applicants

Planning and Partnership

- ▶ Developing community-wide or region-wide partnerships to better identify and understand the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Compensating Youth Action Board members for their work on the YHSI grant activities
- ▶ Costs associated with hosting local conferences
- ▶ Engagement, training, and cross-community coordination of youth with lived experience for participation in YHSI grant activities
- ▶ Costs associated with cross-training and developing community-wide policies and best practices for preventing or quickly resolving youth homelessness
- ▶ System-mapping and planning

Data

- ▶ Upgrading, customizing, and enhancing the HMIS to better collect and report data on youth
- ▶ Recruiting new participants to HMIS
- ▶ Technical, legal, and planning costs associated with creating data matches or data integration between different data collection sources, such as HMIS and school district data
- ▶ Developing and implementing evaluation and analysis strategies related to youth homelessness

Coordinated Entry Systems

- ▶ Establishment or improvement of youth-specific CES access points
- ▶ Development or improvement of a youth-specific assessment tool
- ▶ Creating a prioritization plan for youth experiencing homelessness within the larger CES
- ▶ Activities related to better understanding needs of youth experiencing homelessness within CES
- ▶ Developing and implementing an ongoing evaluation process for the CES
- ▶ Recruitment of additional projects to send and receive referrals from CES

Racial and Gender Equity

- ▶ Costs associated with conducting a community-wide racial and gender equity analysis
- ▶ Costs associated with conducting a needs analysis of youth experiencing homelessness, including the needs of youth subpopulations such as minors; Black, Indigenous, and other youth of color; LGBTQIA+; pregnant/parenting youth
- ▶ Costs associated with implementing policies, procedures, and cultural change associated with outcomes of a youth homelessness equity analysis
- ▶ Costs associated with developing an evaluation framework for current and future projects serving youth experiencing homelessness, including outcomes related to racial equity and LGBTQIA+ equity

Required Application Materials

Required Attachments

- 🕒 Geography statement of the area that the application covers by county
- 🕒 Advancing Racial Equity Narrative: Required narrative response to the Advancing Racial Equity questions in Section III.F.
- 🕒 Milestone Chart: A proposed milestone chart that identifies the total length of the proposed project (maximum of 30 months) as well as the milestones, deliverables, responsible organization, and dates for completion. This chart will be used for monitoring progress for awarded applications and may be modified if the project experiences delays. See Section II.D of this Notice for grant term information.
- ▶ Disclosure of other government assistance received

Required Attachments: Letters of Commitment

- 🕒 Letter of Commitment from the YAB or equivalent group of youth who will be involved in the project
- 🕒 Letters of Commitment from partner organizations

Required Attachment: Budget

- ▶ A project budget, which could include:
 - ▶ Personnel including salaries and benefits of employees
 - ▶ Costs associated with consultants, contracts, and subgrantees
 - ▶ Travel
 - ▶ Equipment, including costs associated with hardware or software purchases
 - ▶ Supplies and materials
 - ▶ Other direct costs
 - ▶ Indirect costs

Required Attachments: Rating Factor Responses

15

Rating Factor	Points
Proposed Project Activities	40
Budget	10
Youth Involvement	20
Project Outcomes and Evaluation	15
Regional Approach	15
Total	100

Potential Project Examples

- ▶ Create a state-wide exit strategy for youth exiting the Child Welfare System
- ▶ Engage and hire youth with lived experience of homelessness for project activities
- ▶ Work with local school districts to create a data-sharing agreement to identify youth experiencing homelessness
- ▶ Conduct an in-depth needs assessment for youth and identify gaps in services and housing
- ▶ Develop an awareness campaign on youth homelessness to recruit additional partners and Youth Action Board members

What's Next?

- ▶ Apply for the YHSI grants NOFO on [Grants.gov](#)
- ▶ Attend a Q&A session on YHSI grants
- ▶ Check out the [YHSI webpage](#) for more info